



2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs Medical Center (UTAH18173)

At the George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs Medical Center located in Salt Lake City (SLC VAMC), our community's health and safety are our top priorities. Providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water for Veterans and their families, employees, visitors, and customers is vital for a community. It is our goal to always deliver the best drinking water possible. This means water that meets and exceeds all State and Federal regulations.

This report is a snapshot of last year's (January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021) water quality data and includes details about where our water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Utah drinking water standards. The SLC VAMC is committed to accuracy and transparency in providing this information to our customers.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Shannon Smith at (801) 582-1565 ext. 4533 or shannon.smith92@va.gov.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Our water source is Salt Lake City (UTAH18026). SLC Public Utilities obtains water primarily from surface water sources (City, Parley's, Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks and Jordanelle and Deer Creek Reservoirs) but in times of high-demand, groundwater is used to supplement the supply. Salt Lake City has developed management strategies to protect the water sources from contamination. If you'd like to learn more about helping to protect the quality of our water visit <https://www.slc.gov/utilities/watershed/>.

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN THE DRINKING WATER?

As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or

contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for human health. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

CROSS CONNECTIONS

There are several connections to the SLC VAMC water distribution system. When connections are properly installed and maintained, quality concerns are very minimal; however, unapproved, and improper piping changes or connections can adversely affect not only the availability, but also the quality of the water. A cross connection may let polluted water or even chemicals into the water supply system. This not only compromises the water quality but can also affect your health. Through our cross-connection program, we continually monitor the distribution system to ensure there are no improperly installed connections that could degrade the quality of our water supply.

ARE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS REQUIRED?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PROCESS

SLC Public Utilities supplies drinking water to the SLC VAMC. They treat and test the drinking water for more than 170 contaminants to ensure it meets all State and

Federal standards. The SLC VAMC also treats and tests the water prior to distribution throughout the medical center campus. Last year, VA conducted more than 1,000 tests. The table below provides a listing of compounds monitored by SLC Public Utilities and SLC VAMC.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Shannon Smith at 801-582-1565 x4533. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water supply.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and building plumbing. SLC VAMC water distribution system does not have any lead piping in its distribution system; however, there are welded solder connections that may contain lead throughout the distribution system. When water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

WATER QUALITY DATA

This report shows our water quality and what it means to you, our customer. In the report, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Date – Because of required sampling time frames i.e. yearly, 3 years, 4 years and 6 years, sampling dates may seem outdated, but are the most recent data available.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

2022 Water Quality Report (2021 Data)

Lead and Copper	Year Sampled	MCLG	Action Level	Level Detected	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead a. 90% result	2019	0	15	a. 2.5	ppb	N	Corrosion of plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
b. # of sites that exceed the AL				b. 0		N	
Copper a. 90% result	2019	1.3	1.3	a. 0.269	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of plumbing systems
b. # of sites that exceed the AL				b. 0			

Note: Most recent results for lead and copper are from 2019; additional sampling will be performed in 2022.

Microbiological Contaminants	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Positive Sample Count	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	2021	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	1	N	Naturally occurring in the environment
Fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i>	2021	0	If a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Year Sampled	Level Detected Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2021	9.8 – 58.7	0	80	ppb	N	Drinking water disinfectant
Haloacetic acids (five) (HAA5)	2021	13.8 – 29.9	0	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	2021	0 – 1	4	4	ppm	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants	Year Sampled	Level Detected Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2020, 2021	0 – 1.3	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

Barium	2020, 2021	0.016 – 0.112	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	2020, 2021	0 – 7.6	200	200	ppb	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel /metal factories.
Fluoride	2020, 2021	0 – 0.72	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nickel	2020, 2021	0 – 8.4	100	100	ppb	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	2020, 2021	0 – 4.495	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Selenium	2020, 2021	0 – 2.2	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Sodium	2020, 2021	5.318 – 64.722	500	None	ppm	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Sulfate	2020, 2021	7.6 – 283	1000	1000	ppm	N	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits and runoff from road deicing
TDS (Total Dissolved solids)	2020, 2021	212 – 868	2000	2000	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminants	Year Sampled	Level Detected Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters	2017, 2019, 2021	0 – 5.2	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	2021	0.96 – 0.96	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	2020, 2021	0.38 – 0.38	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Radium 228	2017, 2019, 2020, 2021	-0.15 – 3.1	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
------------	---------------------------------	-------------	---	---	-------	---	-----------------------------

Total Organic Carbon	Year Sampled	Level Detected Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon	2020, 2021	0 – 2.57	0	0	ppm	N	Naturally present in the environment

Turbidity	Year Sampled	Level Detected Low-High	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	2017	1.37 – 631	0	0.3	NTU	N	Soil runoff